SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Madam, I am on a point of order. I think in your declaration you should also mention that there is no absenteeism either. That mention should be made.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

THE STATE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1987.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we will take up the State of Arunachal Pradesh (Amendment) Bill, 1987. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): Madam Deputy Chairman, I move:

"That the Bill to amend the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to amend Section 11 of the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act to provide that the three nominated members of the Legislative Assembly of the Union Terrtory of Arunachal Prtdesh will also continue as nominated members of the provisional Legislative Assembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The hon. Members will recall that in the last session the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986 was enacted. Under the provisions of this Act, Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th State of the Union with effect from 20th February, 1987. The Act had provided for the continuance of all the elected members of the Union Territory Legislative Assembly in the new provisional Legislative Assembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The provisional Legislative Assembly now has thirty elected members. With the proposed continuance of the three nominated members the provisional Assembly will have thirty-three members. Arunachal Pradesh as the hon. Members know is the largest State in area in North East region, and though its population density is low it has more than forty major tribes. The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh wrote to us requesting for the continuance of the nominated members on the ground that these members represented some of the Backward tribes. Their exclusion had caused discontent among these backward tribes. The Bill which has now been introduced seeks as a transitory measure to provide for the continuance of these three nominated members, thus enabling the voice of the weaker and backward sections to be heard in the provisional Legislative Assembly. The amendment is to take effect from 20th February, 1987, the appointed day on which Arunachal Pradesh became a State. A clarificatory provision has been added to Section 11 of the Act that the elected memebrs of the old Union Territory Assembly will be deemed to have been duly elected to the new provisional Legislative Assembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

With these words, Madam, I beg to move that the Bill be taken up for consideration.

The question was proposed.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, I propose to get the Bill passed without any debate unanimously.

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, the Bill is a very simple one. It is meant only to continue the three nominated members of the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh as the Members of the Assembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh. We have no objection for continuance of these three nominated Members in the Assembly, but it is a bad thing in principle. During the discussion on the Bill for the State of Arunachal Pradesh, 1986, I had opposed the continuance of the

Assembly of the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh as the Assembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh, because I had demanded for immediate elections for the State Assembly. During the course of the discussion in his reply the Home Minister, Mr. Buta Singh, had assured that the elections to the State Assembly would be conducted as soon as possible immediately after the formation of the State. That promise has been watered down. We had passed that Bill some five months ago and the State had come into being some three months ago, but the Government is not in a mood to conduct elections for the State Assembly, because they are afraid of the result. They secured more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections in 1984 December. After that they have lost all the Assembly elections. Take the Assembly elections of Andhra Pradesh, take the Assembly elections of Karnataka, take the Assembly elections of Punjab, take the Assembly elections of Assam, take the Assembly elections of West Bengal, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir. Nowhere...

AN HON. MEMBER: In Jammu and Kashmir there is a Congress Government.

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: There is no Congress Government in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a fact that wherever Assembly elections have been held, the Congress has lost and is bound to lose. Keeping this in view they want to continue the Assembly of the Union Territory as the Asembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh. That is why I say it is a very bad principle.

Secondly, they want to continue these three nominated members keeping in view the gain of sympathy they would have of the three particular tribes in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. In the other House the Minister in his statement stated that they wanted to satisfy the three tribes viz. Pangi, Billsmiri and Sulong tribes. They want to satisfy the communities by luring them. They can reserve the seats in the State Assembly. They can conduct the elections for the State Assembly and reserve the seats for the backward tribes in the Assembly. Instead of this they are resorting to this method. That is why I say we have no objection to the continuance of the Members in the Assembly, but we are opposed to this Bill in principle. Anyhow, keeping in view the sensitive situation prevailing in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, I support the Bill.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Ultimately the hon. Member has understood the significance of this Amendment Bill. I share the sentiments of the hon. Member, Dipen Babu because he has understood the basic necessity of this amendment. It is purely an enabling provision to see that all these three nominated members would continue to be nominated members of the Assembly Therefore, there is nothing more to add.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): The question is when will you hold elections?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: When its term is over.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the bill to amend the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986, as pased by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.'

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shal now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Madam, I move:

"That the Bill be passed"

The question was put and the motion was adopted.